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# ROTHBURY RURAL DISTRICT

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1959



ROTHBURY RURAL DISTRICT

A N N U A L   R E P O R T  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
&  
SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR  
  
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## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1959

To the Chairman and Members of the Rothbury Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my fifth Annual Report which is for the year 1959.

The report this year is not as favourable as the one for the preceding year; the estimated population has dropped by 10, the birth rate has remained stationary but above the national rate, the infant mortality and crude death rates have increased and I regret to report a maternal death, the first for eleven years.

The population figures for the years 1919 to 1959 are shown on page 6, and it will be noted that only twice before, i.e. 1951 and 1920, has the estimated population been so low.

The birth rate of 17.96 per 1,000 of the population remains higher than the national one, which was 16.50, and the stillbirth rate dropped from 10.00 per 1,000 live and stillbirths to NIL, or from 1 stillbirth to Nil. On the other hand, the infant mortality rate went up from Nil to 20.20 per 1,000 total live births, i.e. Nil to 2 infant deaths. These wide fluctuations in rates caused by the relatively small numbers, are best judged over a period of years and, on page 6, I give a graph of the infant mortality rates for the period 1919 to 1959, compared with the rate for England and Wales for the same period.

The number of deaths rose from 65 to 71, giving an increased rate of 12.88 per 1,000 of the population against the national rate of 11.60. However, to allow for alterations in the structure of the population, e.g. an increasing proportion of elderly persons, the rate of 12.88 can be multiplied by the comparability factor which has been given by the Registrar General as 0.86. This gives a rate of 11.07. The average age of death was again

72 years and 29% died before the age of 65 years compared with 21% in 1958. The proportion of deaths from diseases of the heart and circulatory system fell from 58% to 48% of all deaths, and coronary artery disease accounted for 29% of this group or 15% of all deaths. For 1957 and 1958, the percentage for coronary artery disease were 14.5% and 18.4% respectively. The deaths from this cause have again been classified according to the Registrar General's classification as follows:-

Classification	Males	Females
Class 1 (Professional etc.)	-	-
Class 2 (Intermediate occupations)	1 (3)	- (2)
Class 3 (Skilled occupations)	-	- (1)
Class 4 (Partly skilled occupations)	-	1 (2)
Class 5 (Unskilled occupations)	-	-
Totals	1 (3)	1 (5)

\* Figures in brackets are deaths at age of 65 years and over.

It is interesting to note from the Report of the Ministry of Health, 1958, that "the number of deaths assigned to coronary disease has increased by nearly a quarter in the past five years. It is probable that much of this increase is still due to improved diagnosis of cause of death and ageing of population, but nevertheless a real increase would appear to be taking place."

Cancer deaths doubled, rising from 7 to 14 and giving 21.5% of all deaths. For 1958, the percentage was 10.7%. The lung cancer deaths were the same as for 1958, 3 male and 1 female death, the chief increase was under the heading, "Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms."



There was an increase in the number of infectious diseases notified, principally in the incidence of measles, a total of 53 cases compared with 2 in the previous year. Dysentery again proved of nuisance value, 19 cases were reported, infecting 10 families. Fortunately, no food handler was involved.

This year, I have included figures for immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus, together with the immunity index for North No. 2 Area and vaccinations for the same area, and it will be seen that the immunity index, which is the number of children immunised, (primary or booster), during the last five years, expressed as a percentage of the total estimated mid-year child population, compares very favourably with the other districts in North Northumberland, and I am very pleased that the parents have come forward so readily. I also wish to thank the general practitioners for all their help and co-operation.

The campaign for poliomyelitis vaccinations has also shown a most pleasing response and results in North Northumberland are shown in the table hereunder: -

1 - 15 Age Group

12,751 children received two injections (94%) out of an estimated population of 13,573.

15 - 25 Age Group

3,831 persons received two injections (54%) out of an estimated population of 7,040.

<u>Expectant Mothers</u>	575
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<u>Doctors and Families</u>	41
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<u>Ambulance Staff and Families</u>	17
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<u>Hospital Staff</u>	57
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A total of 17,272 received two injections since the advent of the scheme to 31st December, 1959.

Of these, 12,940 received their third injection - approximately 75%

Tuberculosis notifications again fell, only 1 new case being recorded. There was no death from tuberculosis, the third successive year that this has occurred.

The main progress in improvement of insanitary conditions during the year was in the provision of the Longframlington Sewerage Works and I am glad that this scheme, which was urgently required, has now been completed. In addition, the work at Whittingham has also commenced.

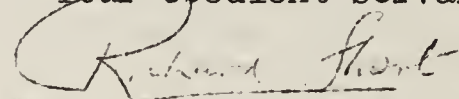
Progress in Slum Clearance was extremely slow during the year, but the problem in this rural area is not so acute and many of the sub-standard houses are being improved. It will be noted in the Inspector's report, that 256 improvement grants have already been given.

As this is my last report to you before taking up a new appointment, I would especially like to record my appreciation of the help and kindness I have received from members of the Council, the Clerk, Surveyor/Public Health Inspector and other members of the Council Staff.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,



MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

### GENERAL STATISTICS

The area of the district is 167,186 acres.

The number of inhabited houses was 2,074 and the number of new houses completed during the year was 16.

The rateable value was £64,593 and the sum represented by a penny rate was £245.

The estimated mid-year population was 5,510 and this figure was taken when calculating the Birth and Death rate.

### VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	54	40	94
Illegitimate	<u>5</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5</u>
Totals	<u>59</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>99</u>

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population 17.96

Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births 5.05

#### Stillbirths

Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	<u>=</u>	<u>=</u>	<u>=</u>
Totals	<u>=</u>	<u>=</u>	<u>=</u>

Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths Nil

Total live and stillbirths 99

#### Infant Deaths (deaths under one year)

Legitimate	-	2	2
Illegitimate	<u>=</u>	<u>=</u>	<u>=</u>
Totals	<u>=</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

#### Infant Mortality Rate

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births 20.20  
 Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births 21.27  
 Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births Nil

#### Neo-natal Mortality Rate

Deaths under four weeks per 1,000 total live births 20.20

#### Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate

Deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births 20.20

#### Perinatal Mortality Rate

Stillbirths and deaths under one week combined  
 per 1,000 total live and still births 20.20

#### Maternal Mortality

Number of deaths 1  
 Rate per 1,000 total live and still births 10.10



<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
	27	44	71

Death Rate per 1,000 of the population	12.88
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis	Nil
Deaths from Other Puerperal Causes	Nil
Deaths from Cancer	15

CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	-	-	-
Tuberculosis (Other)	-	-	-
Syphilitic Disease	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	-	1	1
" " Lung, Bronchus	3	1	4
" " Breast	-	1	1
" " Uterus	-	1	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	5	3	8
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	-	-	-
Diabetes	-	1	1
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	2	12	14
Coronary Disease, Angina	4	6	10
Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	2	3
Other Heart Disease	-	3	3
Other Circulatory Disease	2	2	4
Influenza	1	-	1
Pneumonia	3	2	5
Bronchitis	1	-	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	-	-	-
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	1	2
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	-	-	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	-	-
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-	1
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	1	1
Congenital Malformations	-	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	5	8
Motor Vehicle Accidents	-	-	-
All Other Accidents	-	2	2
Suicide	-	-	-
Homicide and Operations of War	-	-	-
Totals	<u>27</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>71</u>



Table 2

ACCIDENTAL DEATHS

Sex	Cause of Death	Age
<u>Females</u>	Pulmonary embolism. Thrombosis due to fracture of left tibia. Accidental fall.	54
	Asphyxia due to inhalation of hot carbon-dioxide gas accidentally sustained due to deceased having been overcome by fumes from fire.	76

Table 3

INFANT MORTALITY

Cause of Death	Age	Place of Death
Anoxaemia of brain. Partial detachment of placenta. Prematurity 10 weeks.	45 mins.	Coquetdale Cottage Hospital, Rothbury.
Intracranial haemorrhage. Anoxia. Severe pre-eclampsia (maternal).	4 days	Mona Taylor Maternity Home, Stannington.

Table 4

INFANT MORTALITY 1919-1938 AND 1949-1959

YEAR	NO. OF INFANT DEATHS	INFANT MORTALITY PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS	INFANT MORTALITY ENGLAND & WALES
1919	2	26.00	89
1920	8	80.10	80
1921	6	60.00	83
1922	1	12.00	77
1923	2	24.00	69
1924	2	25.00	75
1925	1	12.18	75
1926	3	33.30	70
1927	6	95.00	69
1928	7	96.00	65
1929	-	-	74
1930	3	62.50	60
1931	1	12.60	66
1932	3	60.00	65
1933	1	16.10	64
1934	1	12.80	59
1935	7	111.00	57
1936	1	14.08	59
1937	1	12.50	58
1938	-	-	53
1949	4	45.90	32
1950	2	26.60	30
1951	2	23.20	30
1952	-	-	28
1953	1	9.50	27
1954	-	-	25
1955	3	42.25	24.9
1956	1	11.36	24.9
1957	1	12.50	23.1
1958	-	-	22.5
1959	2	20.20	20.7

INFANT MORTALITY 1919-1938 AND 1949-1959

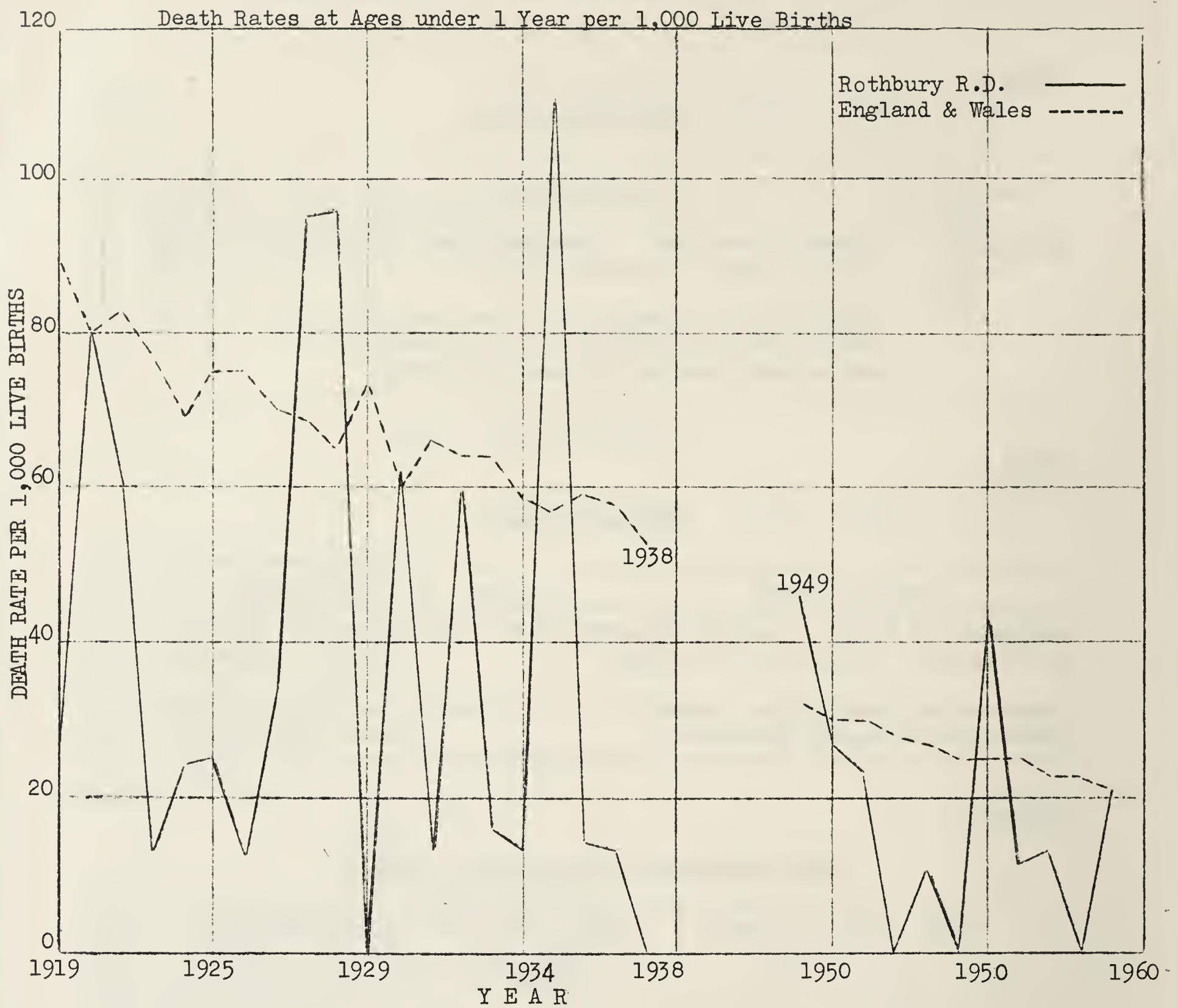


Table 5

POPULATION FOR ROTHBURY RURAL DISTRICT  
1919 - 1959

YEAR	POPULATION	YEAR	POPULATION	YEAR	POPULATION
1919	5,600	1930	5,767	1949	5,680
1920	5,507	1931	5,615	1950	5,679
1921	5,968	1932	5,660	1951	5,507
1922	5,963	1933	5,627	1952	5,574
1923	6,011	1934	5,712	1953	5,567
1924	6,093	1935	5,692	1954	5,580
1925	5,959	1936	5,687	1955	5,560
1926	5,877	1937	5,629	1956	5,560
1927	5,877	1938	5,561	1957	5,520
1928	5,808	1939	Not Published	1958	5,520
1929	5,888	1940	Not Published	1959	5,510

Table 6

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Group	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
60+	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-



Table 7

IMMUNISATION

Primary Immunisation									Secondary (Reinforcing) Injections								
	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5/9	10/14	Total	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5/9	10/14	Total	
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	3	-	-	-	-	1	3	2	6	
Diphtheria & Whooping Cough	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	16	6	2	24	
Diphtheria, Whooping Cough & Tetanus	63	31	6	-	1	2	-	103	-	-	-	1	1	7	-	9	
Totals	66	31	6	-	1	5	-	109	-	-	-	1	18	16	4	39	

Immunity Index - North No. 2

<u>District</u>	<u>1-4 Age Group</u>	<u>Under 1 Age Group</u>
Alnwick U.D.	74.6	25.41
Alnwick R.D.	81.8	29.00
Amble U.D.	98.8	41.34
Rothbury R.D.	87.3	26.37

Average per cent for North No. 2 ..... 83.80

Table 8

SMALLPOX VACCINATIONSNorth No. 2

Number Vaccinated during period							Number Re-vaccinated						
District	Under 1	1	2-4	5-14	15 or over	Total	Under 1	1	2-4	5-14	15 or over	Total	
Alnwick U.D.	56	31	4	-	3	94	-	-	-	1	13	14	
Alnwick R.D.	102	62	15	6	8	193	-	2	-	5	32	39	
Amble U.D.	16	15	1	5	1	38	-	-	-	1	3	4	
Rothbury R.D.	37	29	1	5	-	72	-	1	1	1	15	18	
Totals	211	137	21	16	12	397	-	3	1	8	63	75	

Table 9

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Scarlet Fever	2	Erysipelas	1
Diphtheria	-	Acute Poliomyelitis	-
Whooping Cough	1	Dysentery	19
Pneumonia	4	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-
Measles	53	Puerperal Pyrexia	-
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	-	Smallpox	-
Enteric Fever	-	Paratyphoid Fever	-
Encephalitis	-	Food Poisoning	-



PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT1959WATER SUPPLIES.

The Council supply the villages of Rothbury, Thropton, Elsdon, Harbottle, Alwinton and Whittingham. All are gravity systems except Whittingham.

The supplies during the year were well maintained, no shortages being experienced.

This Council will soon be no longer a Water Undertaker, for ministerial policy decrees that, in future, water supplies must be in the hands of large, competent undertakers. It is regrettable that a water system that gives us supplies at a 4d. rate should be absorbed and the ratepayers have to face a possible rate of 2/6d.

SEWERAGE DISPOSAL.

Longframlington sewage works are now in operation and thus sees the satisfactory completion of a scheme that was first proposed in 1954.

Work has commenced on sewers at Whittingham and the scheme should be completed by mid-1960.

HOUSING.

Work on the clearance of White Cottages, Longframlington is to commence in January, 1960. It is proposed to erect ten stone built houses on the site.

Eleven houses were built and occupied during the year at Addycombe, Rothbury. We now have 265 council houses throughout the area.

Five houses were erected by private owners, two of which were at farms, (Low Weldon and Harehaugh).

Twenty-three houses were made fit during the year as a result of informal notice. One house at White Cottages, Longframlington, is still in use as temporary accommodation.

Twenty-four applications were received and approved for Improvement Grants. The average grant paid during the year was £246 per house. Up to date, 256 grants have been given.

Four applications were approved for Standard Grants but none completed by the end of the year.

FOOD.

The Slaughterhouses Act, 1959, requires the Council to report to the Minister in 1960, the probable requirements and condition of existing premises. I do hope that we may see some improvement in the near future.

No change in the number of food premises has been made during the year.

The standard of hygiene is satisfactory.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

No extension of the scavenging service has been made during the year. 1,500 houses have the service leaving under 600 without, the majority of which are isolated. It is hoped, however, to cover the whole district in the near future.

CARAVANS.

No change in law has taken place so that conditions are generally as last year. This has been the first year of our site at the Riverside, Rothbury. With the Planning Authority, an attractive layout has been prepared and I am sure after its development and time given for the trees and shrubs to grow, the site will be a credit to the Council.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT.

Our part-time operator, Mr. L.H. Mitchell, died in May, 1959. A successor, Mr. J.O. Jackson, was appointed in July. It was not possible, under these circumstances, to do other than essentials. I am grateful to the Divisional Officers for the help they gave our new man.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949					
	Type of Property - Non-Agricultural				Agri- cult- ural
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	All other (Including Business Premises)	Total of Columns 1, 2 & 3	
1. Number of properties in district	9	1816	118	1943	241
2. Number of properties inspected as a result of:-					
(a) Notifications	-	6	2	8	-
(b) Survey under the Act	9	10	-	19	-
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)	-	4	12	16	-
3. Total inspections carried out including re-inspections	16	20	51	87	-
4. Number of properties inspected (in Sec. 2) which were found to be infested by:-					
(a) Rats	6	6	4	16	-
(b) Mice	-	-	-	-	-
5. Number of infested properties (in Sec. 4) treated by L.A.	6	6	4	16	-
6. Total treatments carried out including re-treatments	8	14	3	25	-



FACTORIES ACT 1937 & 1948Part 1 of the Act1. INSPECTIONS for purpose of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	1	3	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	18	13	-	-
(3) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	6	-	-
T O T A L	22	22	-	-

2. CASES in which defects were found - None.





